

**Vacant Posts of Homoeopathic Pharmacists in CGHS, Delhi**

**2829. SHRI GOPALSINH G. SOLANKI:** Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 1028 given in the Rajya Sabha on 10th December, 1999 and state:

- (a) why the posts of Homoeopathic Pharmacist (OBC) in CGHS, Delhi lying vacant since 8th June, 1999, could not be filled up till date;
- (b) what are hindrances being faced by the Ministry in filling up of the post; and
- (c) whether responsibility need to be fixed for tardy handling of the case by the person concerned?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE [DR. (SHRIMATI) RITA VERMA]:** (a) and (b) The Central Employment Exchange has sponsored the names of the candidates for the post of Homoeopathic Pharmacist in February, 2000. However, the interviews of the candidates sponsored by the Employment Exchange could not be held as the Selection Committee was preoccupied till June, 2000 with the interviews of another category of posts. The date of interviews for the post of Homoeopathic Pharmacist has now been fixed and is scheduled to be held in the first week of September, 2000.

- (c) In view of (a) and (b) above, the question does not arise.

**HIV/AIDS Cases Among Children**

**2830. SHRI YADLAPATI VENKAT RAO:**

**SHRI C. RAMACHANDRIAH:**

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of children in India who have tested HIV positive or are fully blown AIDS cases;
- (b) whether there has been five times increase of the infection among children in the past one decade;
- (c) if so, the cause of the increase in incidence of HIV/AIDS among children; and

(d) the steps proposed to check such rise of AIDS among children?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE [DR. (SHRIMATI) RITA VERMA]:** (a) The reported cumulative number of full blown AIDS cases among children below the age of 14 years as on 31st July, 2000 is only 512, as cases of full blown AIDS are often not reported.

(b) and (c) There is a gradual increase in HIV infection among the children over the years. The main reasons for the increase in HIV infection among the child population are:

- (i) increasing number of HIV infected mothers due to overall increase in HIV transmission in the general population; and
- (ii) sexual exploitation of street children.

(d) Government of India has initiated a pilot project for prevention of mother to child transmission of HIV infection (MTCT) in 11 centres spread over five high HIV prevalent States in the country, namely, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh and Manipur.

The Street children have been identified as one of the major group to be targeted for preventing the spread of HIV infection. A comprehensive strategy of behaviour change communication, counselling, provision of health services and empowering them by creating an enabling environment for sustained change of behaviour is being implemented.

#### **WHO Help for Antirabies Programmes**

**2831. SHRI K. C. KONDAIAH:** Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the average number of deaths reported in the country every year due to rabies;

(b) the average number of deaths due to rabies in Karnataka;

(c) whether WHO has come forward to render technical and financial help and knowhow for implementation of rabies control programmes in the country; and